

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03949 231254Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----102452 231258Z /53

O R 231228Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2108
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3949

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS
SUBJECT: ME STAFF GROUP- WEIZMAN TO CALL FOR COALITION GOVERNMENT

1. MET WITH A VERY TIRED AND PATENTLY DISTRAUGHT WEIZMAN THIS MORNING TO CARRYOUT INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 073647. HE OPENED CONVERSATION BY ANNOUNCING HE HAD JUST GIVEN HIS FIRST EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO ANY HEBREW NEWSPAPER SINCE HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE. INTERVIEW, TO BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S MA'ARIV (24 MARCH), WILL ANNOUNCE WEIZMAN'S CALL FOR A "PEACE COALITION" GOVERNMENT. WEIZMAN SAID HE HAD NOT INFORMED BEGIN OF THIS MOVE, THAT HE WOULD "HAVE TO READ IT IN THE PAPERS." HE KNEW BEGIN WOULD BE FURIOUS, BUT EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS AND REPORTS OF BEGIN'S DISASTROUS VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAD CONVINCED HIM TIME HAD COME TO BROADEN PRESENT COALITION.

2. WEIZMAN SAID HE HAD JUST TALKED TO CIECHANOVER
SECRET

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ABOUT BEGIN'S WASHINGTON VISIT. IT APPEARED THAT AN IMPASSE HAD BEEN REACHED "BETWEEN TWO STUBBORN PEOPLE." THIS WAS THE DECISIVE EVENT WHICH MADE HIM CONCLUDE ISRAEL MUST NOW UNITE AND PRESNET A SOLID FRONT. HE SIAD THAT AS HE WAS FLYING HOME FROM LEBANON YESTERDAY HE PASSED OVER HAIFA PORT AND SAW THE MANY STRIKE-BOUND ISRAELI SHIPS AT ANCHOR. IN A TYPICAL WEIZMAN RHETORICAL

FLOURISH HE PRONOUNCED "IT IS TIME TO HOIST ANCHOR AND
GET SAILING WITH THOSE SHIPS AND WITH THE NATION."

3. COMMENT: WE WILL COMMENT BY SEPTTEL ON THIS BLOCKBUSTER
BY WEIZMAN. SUFFICE TO NOTE THAT IT PUTS THE CAT AMONG
THE PIGEONS AND THIS PARTICULAR CAT GAVE NO IMPRESSION
THIS MORNING THAT IT INTENDED TO BE BELLED.
VIETS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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